

**International Treaties**

4755. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to have the bilateral and multilateral treaties entered into by the Government ratified by Parliament; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Action Plan for Jute Growers**

4756. DR. R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a long term action plan for improving the lot of jute growers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this plan is likely to be implemented and the total expenditure involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c). Government of India propose to continue the implementation of existing Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Special Jute Development Programme (SJDP) in important jute growing States during the VIII Five Year Plan.

Under the existing scheme of SJDP, financial assistance is provided on produc-

tion and distribution of quality seeds, supply of plant protection chemicals and equipments, distribution of farm implements and also for organising demonstrations of improved production technology. The development programme aims at increasing productivity of jute and improving its quality which would enable the jute growers to get better prices for their produce. The scheme may involve an expenditure of about Rs. 46 crore during the entire period of VIII Plan.

[Translation]

**Gene Bank of Medicinal Plants and Herbs**

4757. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to establish a gene bank of medicinal plants and herbs in the developing countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) and (b). Sir, The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has already established a gene bank at New Delhi, to conserve germplasm of various agricultural crops, including medicinal and aromatic plants and herbs. A total of 1,43,897 germplasm collections of various crop plants, including 665 samples of Narcotics and 138 samples of medicinal and aromatic plants, have been presently stored in the gene bank.

[English]

**Visit of our Team to Kashmir**

4758. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI:  
SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: